

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, S.W.1.

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PRICE TWOPENCE.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,
Daughter of the newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

BY ROSAMUND SMITH.

The rather pompous name does not arouse immediate interest and it is not unnatural to find people curiously shy of making a closer acquaintance with the thing itself. They are sure they cannot understand it and turn a deaf ear to the most pellucid of explanations. It was for once an inspiration when the "initials" habit came in with the war and allowed us to call it "P.R."

But, seriously, it is strange that in a politically-minded country there is not more anxiety about the extremely uncertain value of the citizen's vote. The fate of governments, a devastating world war, a rise or fall in taxation, the price of coal, or perhaps a complete *bouleversement* of life as we know it depends on the collective decision of the voters when they go, every four or five years to the polling station to place a slip of paper in the ballot box.

Most people nowadays accept the principle of representative government based on democracy even though it be challenged by a Guild, Socialist or Soviet minority. But may not this very challenge be due, at least in part, to the failure of the representative system of which the crucial point is surely that the voice of the people shall be heard speaking in authentic accents? Is parliament now truly representative of the electorate? At the last general election (December, 1918), the Coalition secured one representative for every 13,001 votes polled, while Labour secured one representative for every 48,768 votes polled.

Even when there are only two political parties striving for the suffrages of the electorate it is possible where the country is

divided up for the most part into single-member constituencies, for a large minority, or even in extreme cases an actual majority, to remain entirely without representation. Now that we have at least three important political parties and several minor groups there are usually three and sometimes a larger number of candidates at elections, in spite of unholy compacts not to run against each other between parties of quite opposing views. At the general election there were no less than 248 single-member constituencies in the United Kingdom in which there were three or more candidates. In these cases the chance that the member actually returned will represent a majority of the votes is small. The average elector is fully aware of this and shows his disgust by staying away, so that small polls are the order of the day.

The advantages of a truly representative system need not be laboured. There is a widespread unrest, "direct action" is preached, the electorate is apathetic, the Government over-centralized, the opposition is weak and the rank and file in parliament are vague in purpose. These and other evils are deprived of their very roots when parliament can speak with the weight of public opinion behind it.

Such a system can be found in P.R. under the single transferable vote scheme. An essential feature of this scheme is the creation of constituencies returning several members. Each elector has one vote, but may indicate his second, third, etc., preference, though not compelled to do so. It then becomes necessary to ascertain the "quota," or the number of votes necessary to elect

each candidate. This is done by dividing the number of votes polled by one or more than the number of members to be returned, and adding one. Suppose, for instance, that there is one member to be returned and 4,000 votes are polled. A candidate receiving one more than half the number polled, i.e., 2,001, would obviously be elected, and 2,001 is 4,000 divided by 2—one more than the number of seats—with one added. Similarly, if two members are to be elected and 4,000 votes have been polled, the figure (4,000) should be divided by three and 1 added to the result, giving as a result 1,334. In such an election only two candidates could obtain this number of votes. In a three member constituency a candidate who secures one more than a fourth of the votes will be successful and so on. It will be seen that the candidate under P.R. has at least one great advantage. The constituency may be less compact and easy to cover, but the P.R. candidate need not appeal to every voter in the constituency. He is not obliged to obtain the highest number of votes polled; he has only to obtain his fair proportion of them. He can apply himself to get support from some particular section of the voters; he need not fear to take up some cause which is unpopular in certain quarters; he is not obliged to trim his sails to every wind that blows. If he had been a prominent member of a party now in disfavour he need not necessarily lose his seat and Parliament his experience. To return to the P.R. count, the quota having been ascertained all those who have obtained it are declared elected. But possibly all the seats are not yet filled and there are candidates with something less than the requisite number. Some of those who are already elected will certainly have more votes than are needed to return them. All these papers are examined and a due proportion are transferred to the second choice—or if he is also already returned—to the next choice. This is done by the returning officer strictly in accordance with the wishes of the electors as expressed on the ballot paper. When the surplus votes of the successful candidates are distributed, if there still remain seats vacant, the votes of those at the bottom of the poll who have no chance of being returned are also distributed to the next choices. It is, in effect, as if the elector

was asked: "If you cannot have Mr. Smith as your member please tell us whom you would prefer to have in his place—Mr. Jones, Mr. Brown or Mr. Robinson?" If this system were followed it is estimated from results achieved elsewhere that 90 per cent. of the voters would be represented by a member to whom their first, second or third choice has been given. With the exception of very small minorities all the parties are represented in the correct proportions, while independent candidates also have a reasonable chance of election.

It has not been found, however, that P.R. leads to the return of numbers of isolated candidates, which tend to the formation of small parliamentary groups and a resulting instability of government.

P.R. is established in some of our own Dominions and in many other countries. It is important when considering P.R. abroad to distinguish between the single transferable vote system, as described, and the list system which is established with some variations, in France, Belgium, Germany, etc. Here the discrimination of the voter is checked by the power given to the political parties to arrange their candidates in an order of preference which interferes with the representative character of the elections. Whatever faults may be found with this form of P.R. it is difficult to find any valid objection to P.R. as it is already established for the municipal elections in Ireland, the Education Authorities in Scotland and, as it is hoped will shortly be secured, for the municipal elections in England by local option. It would seem as if those who oppose P.R. can care very little for representative institutions and, possibly, believe they can sweep the board, securing themselves in power and leaving their opponents without the just measure of representation to which they are entitled. Holders of "safe" seats are also prone to dislike P.R. for there will be no uncontested elections under the single transferable vote system and the power of the party caucus and the party selection committee must lose much of its strength when a candidate needs only a quota of votes to be returned. As an elector the ordinary man or woman should care chiefly to have his or her vote made *effective*, and under P.R. they can be assured of true representation.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We hope to see a good gathering of members at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 19th, (see advert). One of the questions we propose to discuss is the best way of extending our influence abroad, and so help the women in the unenfranchised countries.

* * * *

There has come to our hands, a little late, a pastoral letter issued by the Patriarch of Jerusalem last April, the chief object of which appears to give a solemn warning to Catholics against the Girl Guides. In fact the pastoral forbids any Catholic girl from joining the ranks of the Guides. One gathers that the Patriarch of Jerusalem fears amongst other things that the girls being gathered together for "sporting purposes," their uniform must be a little free not to interfere with their gymnastic aims. Cannot our officers of the G.G. send out a photograph of our Catholic Girl Guides at Benediction in Westminster Cathedral, or joining in a religious procession in their uniforms? It might be as well likewise to send to Jerusalem copies of Monsignor Jackman's paper on the Girl Guides, which we see has been printed by Headquarters under the title "The Girl Guide Movement in Relation to the Roman Catholic Church."

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In connection with the granting of the suffrage in the United States the *Month* for December had some excellent remarks on the new position of women. "Now that practically all the English-speaking communities have thus recognised women's rights to citizenship," it says, "the time is near when no nation claiming to be civilised will deny it. We trust that stimulated by the express encouragement of the Holy Father, Catholic women will regard the use of the vote as a matter of duty and conscience. Catholic men have often failed in this respect, notably in France but here as well, not recognising the responsibilities of citizenship, and the share they have in bad government, unless their votes stand in protest against it. There is an immense amount for the conscientious voter, whether male or female, to do, before

woman gets complete justice. Since the world began it has been managed by men and, almost inevitably and unconsciously from the man's point of view. . . . And there is a natural tendency, which needs to be noted and guarded against, in the legislation of the Church, officered as she is entirely by men, not to hold the balance evenly between the sexes. . . . It is time, we think, for the theologians, especially for moral theologians, to take account of the changed conditions of the modern world, changes above all in regard to woman's position, occupation and outlook, which were wholly unknown to the great classical moralists, liable as they were, as every generation is liable, to take what they saw around them as fixed and stable. . . ." We are grateful to the *Month* for these wise and by no means uncalled for remarks, and we trust they will bear abundant fruit.

International Notes.

Madame Brunschwig, in *La Française* (Jan.) makes a clear and important statement of policy in regard to what is known abroad as the "vote familial," i.e., the proposed system by which fathers of families should enjoy an added vote for every child, or perhaps share the children's vote with their mother. The secretary of the French Suffrage Union reminds its members that they are all pledged to agitate for the vote for women on the same terms as men; they should not commit themselves as a body to any fresh form of plural vote concerning which the opinion of suffragists may differ widely.

* * * *

We feel compelled to express regret that our excellent contemporary, *La Femme Belge*, should have given the prominence of first place (Dec.) to an article by a male contributor, E. Montier, demanding that women should return forthwith to the domestic hearth from which the war, he considers, has so disastrously drawn them. Unless, which seems unlikely, Belgian women have suffered

(Continued on page 21).

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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CHRISTIANS AND THE ENDOWMENT OF MATERNITY.

The endowment of maternity is a highly controversial subject, so controversial indeed that the C.W.S.S. has not found it possible to adopt an official attitude towards it, either, that is, for or against. Many of our members may support the principle, many may oppose it. It is a question upon which some of the ablest and keenest feminists are found in opposite camps. It is a proposal which calls pre-eminently for sane, open and fair discussion. It should be considered not from the point of view of this, that, or the other extremist, but upon its own merits. An attack, however, has been made upon it in the name of Christian principles both in the Catholic Women's League Magazine, November, and by Miss Fletcher in her book "The Christian Family." (Catholic Social Guild 1/6). We are told that the proposal for the endowment of maternity violates Christian principles, and it has been suggested that to combat it is a fine piece of work for certain Catholic women to do. Now it seems to me that there is a very good way of testing whether a proposed piece of legislation really violates Christian principles, or whether it does not. We have but to ask ourselves whether if it became law, Catholics would be prohibited from participating in the fruits of it. It seems pretty obvious that if this or any other State were to decree that every child was entitled to maintenance, or part maintenance, from the State, no such prohibition would be issued to

Catholics. Meanwhile divorce exists by law in this and many other lands, but no Catholic, however injured, may take advantage of the Divorce Laws in order to remarry. But Miss Fletcher is badly frightened by the endowment of maternity, and she has allowed her fear to get the better of her judgment and sense of fair play. Thus, she has been led to make a most unfair attack upon the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship by giving her readers to understand that that Society stands for the open advocacy of a State subsidised birth control, whereas the N.U.S.E.C., as anyone may see who reads their programme, stands merely for the general principle "of the Endowment of Maternity and childhood by the State," and has as yet adopted no definite scheme whatever; and we have it on the authority of the N.U.S.E.C. themselves that it is entirely incorrect to assume that they have associated any form of State control of births with any of the various schemes they have been considering during the year. Miss Fletcher is really thinking of the fact that some of the supporters of the endowment of maternity consider that the benefit should extend only to the first four children. But why, we may ask, should that entail a restricted birth rate? Those, and Catholics are by no means alone in this, who consider the use of contraceptives to be sinful will not be shaken in that belief, because they are to receive assistance in

the support of their first four or five children. On the other hand those who, very often from fear of being unable to provide for their children, are restricting their families, might be encouraged to have a larger family than they otherwise would have. This is the view taken by many neo-malthusians, and they are opposed to the endowment of maternity in consequence. No doubt some who urge that the number of children entitled to endowment should be limited to four, do hope that families will be restricted, others no doubt consider that it is fairer, or easier, to legislate for the average family. If Miss Fletcher were to ask why four or five children should be considered as an average family, I would refer her to the Catholic Social Guild Year Book for 1918, so largely used in the study circles inaugurated by her for the members of the Catholic Women's League. There in the discussion on the family wage she will find the following: "The living wage must be such as will support not merely the adult male worker, but his wife and family. But what sized family? *Answer*: It must be calculated for an *average* family, e.g., four or five children." (p. 19). No one would suggest that the C.S.G. was advocating a restricted birth rate.

But Miss Fletcher is so frightened by the idea that she tells us that it is possible to foresee a time when it would be impossible for a working man to beget more than a standardised number of children. Not only could the State refuse help, it might even decree the child's death. This may seem fantastic she tells us, but is only improbable so long as Christians remain a force in society. Personally I think fantastic is a mild adjective in this connection, grotesque would be more adequate to describe the fears expressed in this passage. Much of the opposition to the endowment of maternity would disappear, some people think, if the title were changed to, say, National Family Endowment. In any case the subject is engaging much public interest, it is very complicated and very controversial, and should be discussed sanely and fairly. We hope to give opportunities to our members and readers for such discussion.

L. DE ALBERTI.

Stone Walls and Iron Bars.

Since the days of Job Howard and Elizabeth Fry, much has been done to ameliorate the conditions of prison life in this country and all honour to those who have had a share, great or small, in the hastening of such reforms. If much still remains to be done, there are, however, clear signs of present-day progress.

Two years ago, in honour of the Armistice, the authorities of Walton Gaol, Liverpool, invited the Thalia Club to visit the gaol in order to provide an entertainment for the women prisoners. Special permission had to be requested from the Home Office and was readily given. Last year, and again this year (January 20th) the generous artists repeated their visit which was thus reported in a local paper:—

"Songs, stories and instrumental selections were given to an audience of between two-hundred and three-hundred women inmates—long and short term prisoners—These concerts are now looked forward to with huge expectancy, and gain enthusiastic applause.

For two hours or so these women prisoners were transported to a new and better world, an atmosphere of gracious harmony, humour and fancy and one which might itself have inspired the poet who sang:—

"Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage."

Such charity as this should surely receive full recognition in a country calling itself Christian, and especially among Catholics whose Doctrine Catechism includes among its Works of Mercy:—"To visit the Imprisoned." Still more especially must it appeal to Catholic women since the prisoners thus cheered were women; and they, far more than men, are handicapped by prison "records"; their scope for honest work is much narrower; their chances of escape to a new environment, decidedly fewer. Hence the value to them of a little sympathy and cheerfulness.

E. C. HUGHES.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Annual Report, 1920.

The year 1920 has been an eventful one for the C.W.S.S., a year in which the influence of the society has increased both at home and abroad, and the scope of its work has been extended.

The Annual Meeting, held on February 14th, was very well attended, the members showing great interest in the future work of the society. The chair was taken by Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A. The adoption of the annual report was moved and seconded by Miss Annie Christitch, B.A., and Miss Fennell; the adoption of the financial statement was moved by Miss Wall, and seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Miss Whateley spoke on the importance of paper-selling. After the conclusion of the formal business, a discussion took place on the proposal to change the name of the Society. Miss Christopher St. John opened the discussion by giving reasons for and against the proposed change. Miss Fennell and Miss V. S. Laughton spoke in favour of the change, Mrs. V. M. Crawford and Miss de Alberti opposed the change on international grounds.

The following resolution, which was moved by Miss Laughton, seconded by Miss Mott, "That the name of the Society be changed," was lost by a large majority.

In April our Chairman, Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., represented the Society at the three days' Congress of Women held at Paris, and spoke on the position of women in the British Isles since their enfranchisement.

On April 28th we sent our banner and a contingent to take part in the procession of women employees, organized by the Federation of Women Civil Servants.

In May we took part in the great procession organized by the Catholic Women's League to celebrate the canonization of our patron, St. Joan of Arc. The C.W.S.S. was represented by a contingent, and both our banners were carried, our name banner and the banner of St. Joan. It is significant that our first appearance in an official procession should have been in connection with the canonization of our Patron. The special number of the "Catholic

Citizen," with a fine illustration of St. Joan, was soon sold out.

A laurel wreath, tied with our colours, was placed on St. Joan's shrine in the Cathedral.

During this month we also supported the meeting at the Central Hall, organized by the Criminal Law Amendment Bill and Y.W.C.A. in support of the Bishop of London's Bill.

International Suffrage Congress at Geneva. On May 23rd we supported the Mass Meeting at the Kingsway Hall, convened to "send off" the British Delegation to the International Women's Suffrage Congress at Geneva.

Miss Barry and Miss L. de Alberti were the delegates chosen to represent the C.W.S.S. at the International Women's Suffrage Congress in June. At the request of the C.W.S.S., by kind permission of the Curé, the nine o'clock Mass at Notre Dame, Geneva, on Sunday, June 6th, was offered to ask for the Divine Blessing on the Congress. The special preacher at the Mass was our associate, Father Hall, who had been sent from London by the Ecclesiastical Authorities of Westminster, at the request of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Father Hall's sermon has since been published by the Catholic Truth Society, under the title, "Woman in the Catholic Church." There were Catholics among the delegates from Austria, France, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Luxemburg, Serbia and Spain, but the only Catholic Society that had sent official delegates to the Congress was our own. The C.W.S.S. delegates made a point of meeting their co-religionists from other lands as often as possible, and began a friendship which we hope may lead to mutual help and the furtherance of the women's movement in other countries. Before leaving, the C.W.S.S. and other Catholic delegates were received and entertained to tea by the leaders of various Swiss Catholic Societies. These societies have not got suffrage on their programme. The C.W.S.S. delegates urged the Swiss Catholics to lose no time in founding a Catholic Suffrage Society.

Affiliation to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance.

During the Congress we succeeded in establishing our claim to affiliation to the Alliance; and ours is the first Catholic society to enter the Alliance as an auxiliary

In asking for admission, Miss Barry said that the C.W.S.S. was the pioneer of suffrage in the Catholic world, and that we had hopes of being of great assistance to the Alliance in Catholic countries.

On June 27th and July 9th meetings were held at the Office, at which Miss L. de Alberti gave an account of the Geneva Congress.

National Catholic Congress. The C.W.S.S., for the first time, took part officially in the National Catholic Congress, held at Liverpool, from July 30th—August

2nd. Our Sectional Meeting dealt with the subject of Widows' Pensions, to which the Society is committed. In the regrettable absence of Miss Fennell through illness, her paper on Widows' Pensions was read by Miss Eileen Hughes. The chair was taken by Father Hall. The resolution passed at the meeting, urging the Government to establish a system of Pensions for Widows with dependent children, was forwarded to the local M.P's.

At the great Mass Meeting of Women, organized by the Catholic Women's League, the chief speaker, Archbishop MacIntyre, laid great stress on the importance of the vote, and the use Catholic women could make of it, if properly organized. His Grace paid a handsome tribute to the Catholics already in the field: "We are not starting from nothing," he said, "the successful work of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and the Catholic Reading Guild has more than prepared the foundations. It remains to complete the building."

We took advantage of the gathering of Catholics at the Congress to hold a Public Meeting in Liverpool, on July 31st, on the Need of Women M.P's. The speakers were Professor Mary Hayden, M.A., of Dublin University, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell and Mr. Joseph Clayton. Miss Annie Christitch, B.A., gave an account of the International Women's Suffrage Congress in Geneva. The chair was taken by Miss L. de Alberti, and

the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, realising the need for women in Parliament, calls upon the different political parties to adopt a fair proportion of women candidates at the next election."

We have to thank the members of our Liverpool Branch for their hospitality to our speakers, and for all their energetic work in organising the public meeting, and in paper selling.

Both our banners were carried by members of the C.W.S.S. in the procession organized by the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, in honour of Blessed Oliver Plunkett, on Sunday, September 19th, the intention being "for Ireland."

On November 6th the C.W.S.S. sent a contingent with banners to take part in the procession for Equal Pay, organized by the National Union of Women Teachers, as a protest against the Burnham Report. Miss Fedden was the speaker for the C.W.S.S. at the demonstration in Trafalgar Square, with which the procession terminated.

On November 8th our member, Mrs. H. More Nisbett, spoke at a meeting of the C.W.S.S., at the Atelier Tea Rooms, on the need for Women Police. Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., took the chair.

On the occasion of the visit to London of Mrs. Chapman Catt and the Board of Officers of the International Suffrage Alliance, the two British Societies affiliated to the Alliance, the National Union for Equal Citizenship and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, with the support of the other suffrage societies, co-operated in organizing a Mass Meeting at the Central Hall, on November 29th, to congratulate the women of the United States on their enfranchisement and to welcome their President, Mrs. Chapman Catt.

Mrs. Chapman Catt's Message to the C.W.S.S. A few days later the C.W.S.S. gave a dinner, at the Florence Restaurant, to Mrs. Chapman

Catt and the Officers of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance. Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., in proposing the toast of Mrs. Chapman Catt, took the opportunity of giving a brief sketch of the history of the

C.W.S.S., for the benefit of our overseas visitors, and sent a message to American women. Mrs. Chapman Catt, in replying, said that no invitation had given her greater pleasure than that of the C.W.S.S. She wanted to meet the members, for she had a message for them. She had no doubt that the C.W.S.S. had done its part in the suffrage fight in England, but she was convinced that the great work of the Society lay ahead. Whoever might think their work finished, the C.W.S.S. and its paper must go on until women were enfranchised the world over. There was work to be done that only Catholics could do, and other women looked to them to do it. The world needed the C.W.S.S.; they must not tire, but go on. She knew they could be trusted to do their duty. Mrs. Catt was received with great enthusiasm. The Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch proposed the toast of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, and of our guest, Frau Schreiber, M.P. In replying, Frau Schreiber spoke of the cordiality with which she had been received in England.

Unfortunately, the representatives of France, Italy and Switzerland, Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, Dr. Ancona and Mme. Girardet Veille, were unable to be present, as they had already left London. Frau Linderman was also unfortunately unable to be present.

Letters and resolutions have been sent by the C.W.S.S. to the Heads of Government Departments and the Catholic M.P's., in support of: 1. Mr. Grundy's Bill to amend the Representation of the People's Act; 2. The Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill; 3. The Plumage Bill; 4. To protest against Clauses 3 and 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2) House of Lords; 5. To ask M.P's. to vote for equality of treatment for the women employed in the Pensions Ministry; and 6. Touching the Order in Council dealing with women's employment in the Civil Service.

The C.W.S.S. has also taken part in Conferences on: 1. Women and the League of Nations; 2. Criminal Law Amendment Act; 3. Save the Children Fund, &c. Miss Jeffery represents us on the Women's Citizens Association for Marylebone; Miss Whately on the W.C.A. for Kensington; Mrs. Gunning on the W.C.A. for Fulham. Miss de

Alberti and Miss Barry served on the British-Geneva Congress Committee. Miss Lenn replaced Miss Mott on the Committee of Enquiry into Sexual Morality, when through pressure of work Miss Mott was compelled to resign. The C.W.S.S. has affiliated to the League of Nations Union, on the understanding that this should be understood as a definite pledge of support of the ideals of the League of Nations, but not necessarily as a pledge to support all action taken by the League of Nations Union. We have a representative on the Women's Advisory Committee of this body.

Christmas Sale. The profits of our stall at Christmas Fair at the Caxton Hall amounted to £24.

The "Catholic Citizen." As prices of printing, paper, etc., continue to rise, it was decided in June to raise the

price of the Catholic Citizen to 2d. We hope that the increase will make the paper self-supporting. The generous help of many professional writers enables us to keep up the standard of our paper, and it continues to be a valuable asset to the Society. This year we have added a new feature to the paper, "The International Notes," kindly supplied by Mrs. V. M. Crawford. Miss Eileen Hughes, B.A., has also kindly undertaken to supply a column of notes on topical subjects. The paper is exchanged with The Catholic Times, Universe, Catholic Social Guild Bulletin, The Month, Second Spring, The Sower, The Church Militant, Woman's Leader, The Vote, The Shield, The Woman Teacher, Association Notes (to civil servants), Women's International League Notes, Jus Suffragii, Woman's Outlook (South Africa), Bulletin of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, La Femme Belge, Le Féminisme Chétien (Belgium), La Française (Paris), Bulletin de Groupe Catholiques des Etudiants de Bordeaux, Bulletin de l'action sociale de la Femme, (France), Le Travail Féminin (Switzerland), Bulletin dell'Unione Femminile Cattolica Italiana, Die Luxemburger Frau, Jensi Glas (Bulgaria), Nylænde (Norway), The Western Australian Record, Bulletin of National Catholic Welfare Council (W.S.A.). The Catholic Citi-

zen also goes to India, Germany, Spain, Austria, Hungary, and South America.

In March a dance was given at the vogue Tea Rooms, Victoria St., in aid of the funds of the paper, the amount thus raised being £12.

Hon. Press Secretary's Report. During the past year we have been able to call attention, by means of articles and letters in the Catholic papers to several subjects of great importance and interest to women, and we are glad to take this opportunity of thanking the editors of those papers for enabling us to do so.

Early in the year the Catholic Times published an article written to show the unjust and selfish conduct of many of the Trade Unions in insisting on women being turned out of various industries in which they were doing excellent work, and in which the firms employing them would gladly have retained them.

The interesting subject of Women Jurors has been kept to the front, and the Tablet has lately accepted from us an article on that subject, in which we showed what a valuable opportunity was afforded to Jurywomen of helping to get Justice for all, and especially for their own sex.

Correspondence has been carried on during the year in different papers on a variety of subjects. A book review having appeared in the Catholic Times in which the reviewer seemed to take a favourable view with regard to State regulation of vice, the Hon. Press Secretary wrote to express the abhorrence felt by our Society of every form of this State regulation. The correspondence was carried on vigorously for several weeks by her and other writers. This was followed by another long correspondence on the subject of "Woman's Wild Oats," a writer having used the views of one woman—the authoress of a foolish book with that title—as an occasion for making a general accusation against the morality of women of the present day.

The non-Catholic papers have always very willingly published any items relating to Catholic interests that we have sent them—such as accounts of the St. Joan of Arc cele-

bration last May at Westminster, and the Holy Father's pronouncement in favour of women taking a more prominent part in public affairs.

"The Second Spring," the organ of the Guild of Ransom, had a series of articles entitled "Our Allies," being accounts of different Societies which directly or indirectly were helping to forward the object of the Guild. We supplied a short account of the work and aims of our Society, which was published, thus admitting our claim to a share in breaking down the prejudice against Catholicism.

Treasurer's Note. The financial year of 1920 was

launched by Mrs. Anderson, at the Annual Meeting, with a most inspiring appeal for funds. This was generously responded to by members throughout the year, particularly for the Geneva Congress, and it is encouraging to record that, in spite of increasingly hard times, more money has been subscribed than in any previous year. Nevertheless, we regret to have to own to a considerable deficit, for the first time in our history, which had to be met, of course, out of someone's pocket. We therefore beg all members to bear this in mind and to see if they cannot double their subscriptions this year. At the last Annual Meeting it was agreed, after discussion, not to raise the minimum from 1/-, so as to debar no one from belonging to the Society, but a moment's reflection will show that no Society can be run on 1/- subscriptions in these days.

Those who read the present Report and Balance Sheet will note once again how much has been achieved on very small means. We have every reason to be proud of the Society's great advance in status and influence during 1920.

We have to thank all our paper-sellers, who so faithfully stick to their posts year in and year out, doing a very valuable work for the society. Our regular paper-sellers are: Misses Atkinson, Barry, Bodley, Dwyer, Fedden, Gorry, Jeffery, Mrs. Kelly, Miss O. Kelly, and Miss Whately. We also thank all those who came forward to sell at the St. Joan of Arc procession, and at the Catholic Congress in Liverpool.

Thanks are also due to our speakers, and to the following who have helped in the office: Misses Ceppi, Delany, Fedden, Gorry, Graham, and Orbell.

We offer our congratulations to Miss Jameson, one of our earliest and most active members who entered the Sacred Heart Convent at Roehampton during the year.

Obituary. With great regret we have to record the death of our members Miss Mabel Brady, Mrs. Coldwell, Miss Hodgkinson and Mrs. McNulty. R.I.P.

Brighton. On February 28th a meeting was held at the Sussex Pioneer Club, when an address was given by Mrs. Carrington Wilde (in the unavoidable absence of Miss Annie Christitch) on the work of the "Save the Children Fund." The meeting was well attended and the address much appreciated.

Members were also notified and attended a meeting under the auspices of the Brighton and Hove Union for Women's Local Government and Equal Citizenship held on July 14th at St. Michael's Hall, when Miss F. de C. Merrifield gave an able account of the World Congress of Women held in Geneva by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

We much regret that Miss A. H. Bennett has been obliged to resign her post as Hon. Representative owing to pressure of work.

Liverpool and District Branch. Hon. Secretary, Miss A. J. Musson, Fair View West, Rainhill, Lancs.

The annual meeting was held on January 29th, 1920, at 6, Lord St., Liverpool. Miss E. O'Callaghan was re-elected chairman; Mrs. Parnell, hon. paper secretary; Miss A. de Buines, hon. treasurer; Miss A. J. Musson, hon. secretary. In March, Miss de Buines was obliged to send in her resignation as hon. treasurer and Mrs. L. Hughes kindly undertook to fill the post.

Meetings at which addresses on the following subjects were given: On "Catholic Adult Education," Speaker, Miss T. M. Brown, M.A.; On "Careers," Speaker, Miss L. M. Blackledge; "Ways, Broad and

Narrow," Speaker, Miss D. M. Hughes, B.A. The meetings took the form of socials. Miss M. Short, B. A., kindly arranged the musical items which were ably rendered by the Misses G. and W. Dunn, M. Duff, D. M. Hughes, F. Jervis, M. and B. Short.

Mrs. L. Hughes kindly undertook to look after the refreshments.

We continue to be represented on the Liverpool Council of Women Citizens. Miss D. J. Collier, B.A., represented us on the deputation to the local M.P's. on Widow's Pensions, Women's Suffrage in India; the Pre-War Practices Act; Training Grants for members of the W.A.A.C. and other Women's Forces; The General Industrial Position of Women and the subject of *maisons tolérées*.

Conferences of the Liverpool Council of Women Citizens have been held on:—

- (1) State Control of the Liquor Traffic.
- (2) Some other methods of control of the Liquor Traffic.
- (3) Work of the Police Court Rota and for Women Magistrates.
- (4) Suggested amendments to Criminal Law Amendment as embodied in the Bishop of London's Bill and the Government Bill then before Parliament.
- (5) The Plumage Bill.
- (6) The need for Women M.P's.

Resolutions in support of the following were passed by the Council and supported by the C.W.S.S. and sent to the local M.P's.:—

- (1) The Plumage Bill.
- (2) Representation of the People Bill.

A resolution was sent to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster urging that an adequate number of women be appointed as Magistrates for the city of Liverpool.

Liverpool Catholic Congress. Our Branch was able to give valuable assistance to the C.W.S.S. at the

National Catholic Congress held in Liverpool, our members were able to help particularly with paper-selling and organising our meetings. Our best thanks are due for all the help we have received during the past year—to our speakers and all those who stewarded and helped to distribute handbills

for our meetings—to those who offered hospitality to our Congress Speakers—to those who organised and gave their services at the socials—to Miss W. Hughes for assistance in typing—to Mr. Charles Quinn, who again kindly audited our accounts, and last, but not least, to our paper-sellers, particularly to Mrs. and Miss Parnell, Miss E. Hughes, Mrs. Dunnet and Miss Jervis who have sold regularly during the year.

Wimbledon Hon. Sec., Lady Laughton, 11, Branch. Stanton Road, Wimbledon, S.W.

The activities of this Branch have been chiefly confined to assisting the local Branch of the Women Citizens' Association of which our Hon. Secretary, Lady Laughton, is Vice-President. Our member Miss Fenell, Hon. Sec. to the Wimbledon W.C.A., represents the C.W.S.S. on the Committee, and has organised many very successful meetings. A lecture explaining the proposed changes in the Divorce Law, by Mr. C. J. Matthew, a well-known Catholic resident, was especially noted for its sound views. The Catholic Citizen still enjoys a steady sale outside the Church on Sundays, thanks to Mrs. Huggett's efforts.

(Continued from page 13).

from war conditions in ways from which we here are largely free, this general attack on emancipated womanhood seems to us unhappily exaggerated. In it all the old familiar tags about the unsexing of women are served up afresh.

A Report is given of an important Catholic Congress on the family recently held at Lille at which various methods of State help for large families were discussed but more especially the solution known to our French friends as the "super salary," a subject to which we hope to return in a future number.

* * * *

The Woman's Outlook (South Africa) like other Suffrage journals, has been passing through difficult financial days, and we rejoice to read that its continued publication has been assured for the present by some gener-

ous donations. Its disappearance would have been a real disaster for the feminist cause in S. Africa.

Mrs. Fitzgerald, a prominent member of the Labour Party, has been elected Deputy-Mayor of Johannesburg, the first woman to attain to high municipal rank in the Rand.

Although women throughout Canada possess the Federal vote, *Jus Suffragii* reminds us that the women of the Province of Quebec are still without the provincial or the municipal vote, a really grotesque position. Happily the Montreal Women's Club is now carrying on active propaganda work in favour of an extension of the franchise to women for all purposes throughout the Province.

Women Registrars in New Zealand are now authorised to celebrate civil marriages.

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To *Le Féminisme Chétien* Melle. L. Van den Plas contributes a well-thought out article on the rights of the consumer in opposition to the producer.

V.M.C.

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The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

will be held at the MINERVA CAFE, 144, HIGH HOLBORN (British Museum Tube—Junction of New Oxford Street and High Holborn) on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, at 3 p.m.

Speakers:—

Miss BILLING. Miss ELEANOR FITZGERALD.
Miss BODLEY. Miss F. de G. MERRIFIELD

Miss KATHLEEN FITZGERALD, B.A. in the chair.

Members are asked to come and take part in a discussion on Mrs. Chapman Catt's appeal for the development of the work of the C.W.S.S. on international lines.

F. BARRY, Hon. Sec.,

Tel.:—Museum 4181. 55, Berners Street, W.1.

Women's Freedom League Meetings

held in

Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Monday, Feb. 14th. Speaker: Dr. HELEN B. HANSON. 7 p.m.

Subject "Women in the Church"

Monday, Feb. 21st. Speaker, Miss METCALFE. 7 p.m. Subject

"History of the Suffrage Movement."

Monday, Feb. 28th. Speaker, Mrs. BARBARA DRAKE. 7 p.m. Sub-

ject "Women & Trade Unions."

Monday, March 7th. Speaker, Miss HELEN NORWANTON, B.A.

7 p.m. Subject "Women in the Professions."

Monday, Mar. 14th. Speaker, JOSEPH McCABE, Esq. 7 p.m. Sub-

ject "Some Feminist Writers."

Tickets for Single Lectures, 1/-, from Secretary, W.F.L. Address

as above.

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

Feb. 16th. Speaker, Miss JESSIE HAVER BUTLER. 3 p.m. Subject

"How the Suffrage Victory was won in America."

Feb. 23rd. Speaker, Mr. R. DIMSDALE STOCKER. 3 p.m. Subject

"The Psychology of Social Persuasion."

March 2nd. Speaker, Miss PEGGY WEBLING. 3 p.m. Subject "The

Evolution of the Heroine in Fiction."

Mar. 9th. Speaker, "Mrs. FLORENCE DANIEL. 3 p.m. Subject

"Are Women Monkey Minded."

Mar. 16 h. Speaker, Miss ALICIA LEITH. 3 p.m. Subject "The

Way of the World Worth Living in."

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LECTURES.

WEDNESDAYS, 8-15 P.M.

Feb. 16th. "The First Woman Critic." Mr. S. R. LITTLEWOOD. Chairman—Miss Vera S. Laugh-ton M.B.E.

Feb. 23rd. "Small Causes of Misunderstanding between Great Nations." Miss LINDA HAGEBY. Chairman—Mr. Norman Morrison.

Mar. 2nd. "Native Races of the Empire." LORD HENRY CAVENTISH BENTINCK, M.P. Chair- man—Mrs. Nevinson, J.P.

Mar. 9th. "The Coming Clergywoman." Miss PICTON-TURBERVILLE, O.B.E. Chairman—The Rev. W. Hudson Shaw, M.A.

Mar. 16th. "Some Observations on Poetry." Mr. J. C. SQUIRE. Chairman—Mr. Robert Lynd.

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